

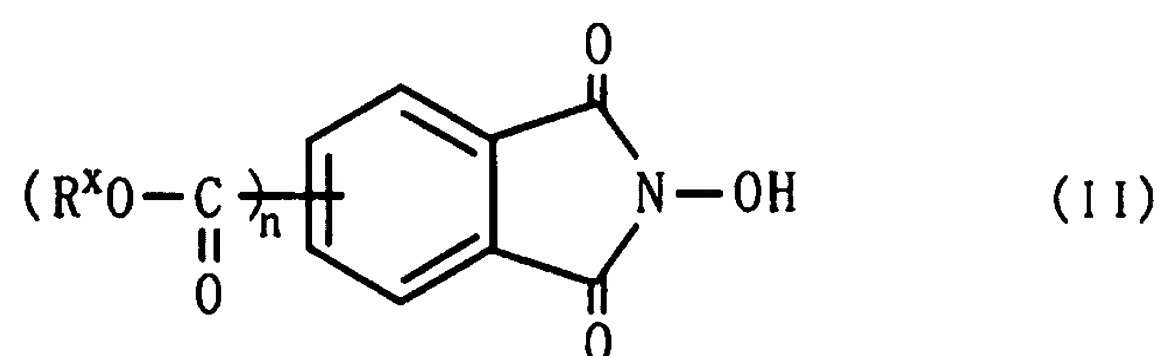
AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. – 3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) The catalyst according to claim 10 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, further comprising a metallic compound.

5. – 9. (cancelled).

10. (previously presented) A catalyst comprising a cyclic imide compound represented by following Formula (II):



wherein R^x is a hydrocarbon group having five or more carbon atoms; and n denotes an integer of from 1 to 4, where the groups $-C(=O)-OR^x$ may be the same or different when n is equal to or more than 2.

11. (previously presented) The catalyst compound of claim 10 identified as 4-dodecyloxycarbonyl-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 24.7.

12. (currently amended) The catalyst compound of claim 10 [[1]] identified as 4-decyloxycarbonyl-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 25.4.

13. (previously presented) The catalyst compound of claim 10 identified as 4,5-bis(hexyloxycarbonyl)-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 25.5.

14. (currently amended) The catalyst compound of claim 10 [[1]] identified as 4,5-bis(octyloxycarbonyl)-N-hydroxyphthalimide, having a Fedors solubility parameter of 24.3.